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A NEW STATION FOR *SAXIFRAGA RIVULARIS* L. IN THE WHITE MOUNTAINS, NEW HAMPSHIRE

On June 18, 1969 Dr. Rosemary Mackay of Montreal drew my attention to a small group of plants growing at the southwest corner of the Appalachian Mountain Club Lake-of-the-Clouds Hut located at 5,000 ft. on the slope of Mt. Washington (Fig. 1). The plants were *Saxifraga rivularis* L. primarily known in recent years from a small station on the summit of Mt. Washington at 6,288 ft. (Pease, 1964). The identification was confirmed by the late Dr. Stuart K. Harris of Boston University. A specimen has been deposited in the herbarium of the University of New Hampshire.

The station includes about 15 plants growing in a compact group. Most plants were in flower on June 18, and by July 3, 1969 most had set fruit. Further checks in June, 1970, 1971 and 1972 showed the plants to be persisting and in 1971 and 1972 to be spreading slightly.

Porsild (1957) notes that *Saxifraga rivularis* is found on wet and mossy areas and on wet cliffs and by brooks in the arctic. However, Britton (1957) suggests that it may be found on fairly well-drained substrates. Both the *S. rivularis* stations described here are comparatively dry,



Fig. 1. *Saxifraga rivularis* L. growing in conjunction with *Carex bigelowii* Torr. at 5,000 ft. near the Lake-of-the-Clouds Hut on Mt. Washington, New Hampshire.

certainly not as damp as would be suggested by the name "Alpine Brook Saxifrage". In past years the Mt. Washington summit locality was in a position to be influenced by leaks from a nearby water tank, but recently the tank has been removed without apparent detriment to the plants. Both stations are characterized by thin winter snow cover and by early snow melt in the spring. Porsild (1957) states that *S. rivularis* is a pronounced nitrophile growing, ". . . below bird cliffs and near human habitations". Both stations are in a position to be influenced by human wastes.

It is well that this plant has spread to at least one new station as development plans for the summit of Mt. Washington endanger the prime station for this relatively rare plant on the Presidential Range.

I wish to thank the Mt. Washington Observatory for providing living facilities, and Bruce Tiffney and Lindsay Fowler for their assistance.

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TWO INTERESTING PLANTS ON MT. CARDIGAN, ORANGE, NEW HAMPSHIRE. Many interesting occurrences of plants are reported by Frank Seymour in his excellent Flora of New England. One of the most unusual was his discovery of *Carex capitata* L. on Mt. Cardigan in 1960 at an elevation of 3200 feet. In New Hampshire, *Carex capitata* is known otherwise only on Mt. Washington where a few small colonies of it occur in moist peaty moss at an elevation of 5000 feet. It does not grow on Mt. Katahdin but is found in Newfoundland and the arctic.

The report of it on Mt. Cardigan seemed so unlikely that the authors thought possibly some mistake had been made and decided to investigate. Accordingly in September, 1972 they climbed the mountain. Above 2500 feet ledges and bare rock were encountered but no unusual plants. The west side of the summit consists of large expanses of bare sloping rock with occasional patches of soil or clumps of dwarf trees. In this area a colony of *Carex capitata* was soon located. It was growing in dry open soil along with *Potentilla tridentata* Ait. Eventually 3 colonies were found in similar situations, the largest of which was 20 feet in diameter. The plant was in abundance in each colony and seemed to be more vigorous than on Mt. Washington.